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(54) Use of rolipram in the treatment of dementia.

(57) The use of rolipram in the manufacture of an antidementia agent.

EP 0 432 856 A2

ANTIDEMENTIA DRUG

[Field of Industrial Application]

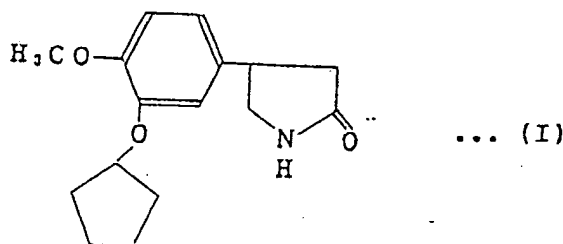
The present invention relates to an anti-dementia agent which comprises rolipram (4-[3-cyclopentyloxy]-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-pyrrolidinone) as an active ingredient.

[Prior Art and Problems to be solved by the Invention]

As the proportion of aged people grows larger in the society, countermeasures against senile dementia caused by cerebral function disorders have become a serious social problem. A variety of drugs have been developed as anti-dementia agents. However, a sufficiently effective drug has not been obtained yet.

[Means for solving the Problem]

Rolipram is represented by the following formula:



and has already been known to have an antagonism against apomorphine as its pharmacological action (Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-11023 (corresponding German Patent, No. 2413935) and Japanese Patent Publication No. 61-2660 (corresponding German Patent, No. 2541855)), and also anti-depression action (Curr Ther Res. 1985;38:23-29).

The present inventors have found that rolipram, in any form of (\pm), (+) and (-) compounds, is effective as anti-dementia agent and thus have accomplished the present invention.

The present invention also claims the applications of the drug for improving the main symptoms of dementia, including defects of memory, disorientation, disturbance in abstract thinking, and fall in judgment, and further symptoms accompanying them, such as nocturnal delirium, hallucination, wandering, depersonalization, etc.

Specific examples of diseases to which the drug of the present invention is applicable include cerebrovascular dementia represented by multiple infarct dementia and amyloid angiopathic dementia, cerebro-parenchymatous dementia represented by Alzheimer dementia and Pick's disease and dementia caused by brain tumor, hydrocephalus, hepatic meningitis, cerebral trauma, etc., dementia caused by cerebral function disorders, and various other symptoms accompanying these dementia.

Acute Toxicity :

The results of mouse acute toxicity test of rolipram are as follows.

	<u>Route for Administration</u>	<u>LD₅₀ Value</u>
5	(±) Rolipram	i.p. 1500 mg/kg
		p.o. 4000 mg/kg
	(+) Rolipram	i.p. > 2300 mg/kg
10		p.o. > 4000 mg/kg
	(-) Rolipram	i.p. 2300 mg/kg
15		p.o. 4000 mg/kg

Method and Dose:

20 A daily dose of the drug of the present invention to be administered p.o. to adult is in a range of 0.001 to 10 mg calculated as the effective ingredient in a range of 0.001 to 10 mg, preferably 0.01 - 3 mg calculated as the effective ingredient. The anti-dementia agent of the invention advantageously comprises (-) rolipram, either in the form of the (±) racemic mixture or substantially free of (+) rolipram. The daily dose may then advantageously be 0.001 to 5 mg, calculated as (-) rolipram.

25 To form the compound of the present invention into pharmaceutical preparations, conventional manners in the field of making pharmaceutical preparations are employed. The form for oral administration is not particularly limited, but the examples are tablets, granules, powders or capsules or in liquid form. More specifically, after adding excipients and further if necessary, binders, disintegrators, lubricants, coloring matters, etc. to the main ingredient, the mixture is formed into pharmaceutical preparations such as tablets, 30 coated tablets, granules, powders or capsules in the conventional manners. The drugs of the present invention can also be applied in parenteral administration. In parenteral administration, the drugs are applied in solution or suspension.

[Examples]35 Example 1Activity on survival time of mouse in oxygen-short state

Mice were put in a plastic box of 150 cm each in length, width and height, and carbon dioxide was injected from a lower inlet at a rate of 500 ml/min. As the survival time, the period from the start of injection 40 to the respiratory standstill of mice was counted. (±) Rolipram, (+) rolipram, and (-) rolipram were all intraperitoneally administered to mice 30 minutes before carbon dioxide was loaded.

The results are shown in Table 1.

45 Table 1

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Survival Time (Second)</u>
Control	195.8±3.7
50 (±) Rolipram (1.0 mg/kg)	220.3±6.9
(+) Rolipram (3.0 mg/kg)	217.2±5.3
55 (-) Rolipram (0.3 mg/kg)	219.8±6.3

(±) Rolipram, (+) rolipram, and (-) rolipram showed the action of prolonging the survival time in doses

of 1.0 mg/kg, 3.0 mg/kg and 0.3 mg/kg, respectively.

Example 2

Test on memory and study of rat using radial maize

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Rats under feed control were put at the central platform (diameter: 25 cm) of an 8-way radial maize (length and width of arm: 48 cm and 10 cm, 40 cm, height from the ground) and trained until they could efficiently take the feed put on the tip of the arm. Numbers of correct choice for the arms where the rats reached for the first time, number of incorrect choice for the arms where the rats reached two or more
10 times and running time until completion of the session were measured for 10 minutes at maximum. When the results with not less than 7 in the correct choice number were shown in 3 continuous session, it was estimated to complete acquirement of space recognition. Space recognition disorder was induced in the rats by administering 0.5 mg/kg of scopolamine (i.p., 30 minutes before the session) to study each activity of (\pm) rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram (all administered p.o., 60 minutes before the session).

15 The results are shown in Table 2.

(\pm) Rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram showed the activity of improving space recognition disorders (decrease in the number of correct choice and increase in the number of incorrect choice) induced by scopolamine in doses of 0.02, 10 and 0.01 mg/kg, respectively.

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Table 2

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Number of Correct Choice</u>	<u>Number of Incorrect Choice</u>
25 Control	7.9 \pm 0.2	0.3 \pm 0.1
Scopolamine 0.5 mg/kg	5.9 \pm 0.2	7.1 \pm 0.9
30 + (\pm) Rolipram 0.02 mg/kg	6.9 \pm 0.2	2.3 \pm 1.1
+ (+) Rolipram 10 mg/kg	7.2 \pm 0.3	2.3 \pm 1.6
+ (-) Rolipram 0.01 mg/kg	6.9 \pm 0.3	3.2 \pm 1.1

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Example 3

Test on memory and learning of rats using 3-panel runway device

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A 3-panel runway device (length: 175 cm, width: 36 cm and height: 25 cm) comprises a start box, four gateways equipped with three-panel gates and a goal box in which feed are put as the reward. The panel gates were designed so that only one of three panel gates in each gateway might be passable. Training of hungry rats to go out of the start box, reach the goal box and take the feed was made by continuous 6
45 sessions in 2 minute intervals. The training was carried out every day but the passable panel gate varied every day. In the test, (1) time taken for the rat to reach the goal box and take the feed after it left the start box, and (2) the number of incorrect choices that the rat tried to pass the impassable gate were recorded and measured in each session. Rats satisfying for consecutive 3 days the criterion that the total time for 6 sessions in one day was within 60 seconds, the total number of incorrect choices was under 12 and the
50 number of incorrect responses in sessions 2 to 6 was not greater than 8 were estimated to completely learn. The rats are used for the following test.

1) Activity against memory and learning disorders induced by scopolamine

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Each activity of (\pm) rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram against memory and learning disorders induced by 0.56 mg/kg of scopolamine (all were administered i.p., 15 minutes before the initiation of session) was examined.

The results are shown in Table 3 (numerals denote the number of incorrect responses).

(±) Rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram inhibited the increase in the number of incorrect responses by scopolamine with doses of 0.1 mg/kg, 1 mg/kg and 0.032 mg/kg, respectively.

Table 3

Treatment	Session					
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Control	3.08 +0.23	1.89 +0.26	1.03 +0.19	0.68 +0.14	0.29 +0.09	0.42 +0.11
Scopolamine 0.56 mg/kg	6.21 +0.49	4.74 +0.38	3.24 +0.33	3.11 +0.34	2.68 +0.27	2.32 +0.25
+ (+) Rolipram 0.1 mg/kg	5.67 +0.95	3.00 +0.73	1.67 +0.61	1.00 +0.45	1.00 +0.63	1.17 +0.48
+ (+) Rolipram 1 mg/kg	4.00 +1.10	4.17 +0.87	3.00 +0.68	2.00 +0.52	1.83 +0.65	1.67 +0.61
+ (-) Rolipram 0.032 mg/kg	4.50 +0.43	2.67 +0.84	1.50 +0.56	1.50 +0.72	1.17 +0.54	0.50 +0.22

2) Effect on cerebral ischemia-induced learning and memory disorders

According to the method of Pulsinelli et al., the both vertebral arteries of rat were burnt and cut under anesthesia with pentobarbital. After 24 hours, the whole carotid artery on both sides was blocked for 5 minutes under no anesthesia. The effect of (±) rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram (i.p. administered immediately after resuming blood flow and 30 minutes before starting the session) on deficits of learning and memory was examined.

The results are shown in Table 4 (numerals denote the number of incorrect responses).

(±) Rolipram and (-) rolipram improved the disorders induced by cerebral ischemia in doses of 0.1 mg/kg and 0.032 mg/kg, respectively. However, (+) rolipram showed no improvement in a dose of 1 mg/kg.

From the foregoing experimental results using mice and rats, it is evident that (±) rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram showed the activity of improving memory and learning deficits. The potency in the activity was in the more potent order of (-) rolipram, (±) rolipram and (+) rolipram. Further, it is noted that all of (±) rolipram, (+) rolipram and (-) rolipram are highly safe.

[Effect of the Invention]

According to the present invention, an anti-dementia agent with a high safety can be provided.

Table 4

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Session</u>					
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Control	4.00 +0.71	1.80 +0.49	1.20 +0.37	1.20 +0.37	0.40 +0.40	0.60 +0.40
Cerebral ischemia	5.09 +0.49	3.36 +0.45	2.64 +0.49	2.18 +0.44	2.27 +0.41	2.18 +0.50
+ (+) Rolipram 0.1 mg/kg	4.25 +0.45	3.00 +0.42	2.88 +0.23	1.88 +0.44	1.38 +0.32	1.13 +0.35
+ (+) Rolipram 1 mg/kg	5.33 +1.15	3.67 +0.56	2.00 +0.52	2.83 +1.08	1.67 +0.61	1.50 +0.96
+ (-) Rolipram 0.032 mg/kg	5.50 +1.34	2.00 +0.52	2.00 +0.68	1.33 +0.56	1.00 +0.26	0.83 +0.31

Claims

1. An anti-dementia agent which comprises rolipram as an active ingredient.
2. The use of rolipram in the manufacture of an antidementia agent.